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Action

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DE RUESUA 08 01/1910Z

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Info

FM AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO

TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUASTP/AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

RUMJDH/AMCONGEN HONGKONG

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ACTION DEPT 1578 INFO TAIPEI 08 HONG
KONG 08 FROM RIO, FEBRUARY 1, 4 PM

EMBTTEL 1534

1. FOUR WIVES NINE CHICOM PRISONERS ARRIVED RIO JANUARY 29 AND PROVIDED LOCAL PRESS, ESPECIALLY OPPOSITION, WITH RATHER SENSATIONAL WEEKEND FEATURE STORY. THEY ARE (A) HAN SZU KUANG; (B) YU LING; (C) KENG SHU-FANG; AND (D) SHIH CHU-YING; WHO WERE ACCOMPANIED BY INTERPRETER (E) YU TSAI-CHUN AND CHICOM RED CROSS OFFICIAL (F) WANG MIN. VISITORS WERE MET AT AIRPORT BY FONOFF OFFICIALS AND POLICE. LATTER REPORTEDLY PREVENTED CFN 1578 08 08 1 4 1534 1 29

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DEFENSE ATTORNEY SOBRAL PINTO FROM PERSONALLY GREETING LADIES AND ENGAGED IN SCUFFLE WITH MEMBERS INDONESIAN EMBASSY WHO THERE FOR SAME PURPOSE AND WERE PREVENTED FROM TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS. THERE FOLLOWED WILD MOTOR RACE OF FONOFF, POLICE, INDONESIAN PAKISTANI AND REPORTERS' CARS FROM AIRPORT TO HOTEL GLORIA WHERE FURTHER CONFUSION ENSUED. PINTO REPORTEDLY COMPLAINED TO NEWSMEN THAT FONOFF AND POLICE ARE RESORTING TO "RIDICULOUS, ARBITRARY AND ABSURD" MEASURES TO KEEP WIVES VIRTUAL PRISONERS IN HOTEL SAYING "BRAZIL IS CIVILIZED AND CULTURED COUNTRY, BUT THESE INCONSIDERATE ACTS CAN ONLY TESTIFY AGAINST US, AND WE WILL BE DESCRIBED IN FOREIGN PRESS AS IGNORANT WILD INDIANS". PINTO ALOS REPORTEDLY TOLD NEWSMEN HE REMAINS AGAINST IDEA OF PRESIDENTIAL PARDON FOR CHICOMS AND CONTINUES HOPE FOR ACQUITTAL. RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE WANG MIN WAS QUOTED BY NEWSMEN AS HAVING DECLARED NINE CHICOMS INNOCENT AND AS SAYING THEIR IMPRISONMENT HAS HAD "BAD REPERCUSSIONS NOT ONLY IN CHINA BUT IN REST OF WORLD". HOTEL ROOMS OCCUPIED BY VISITORS UNDER POLICE GUARD.

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-2- 1578, FEBRUARY 1, 4 P.M. FROM RIO DE JANEIRO

2. ACCORDING TO WHAT LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS (ERIC HAEGLER) HAS TOLD PRESS, CHICOM LADIES, WHO WILL BE PERMITTED SEE HUSBANDS FOR FIRST TIME TODAY, HAVE THUS
CFN 2

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FAR REGISTERED NO COMPLAINTS IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR VISIT.

3. WEEKEND PRESS ALSO HAS STORY CLAIMING "HIGH OFFICIAL OF PRESIDENT 'S OFFICE" HAS BEEN DESIGNATED TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH PINTO AND IRC WITH VIEW TO POSSIBILITY EXCHANGING PRISONERS FOR WESTERN MISSIONARIES HELD BY CHICOMS. PINTO HAS DECLINED MAKE PUBLIC CONFIRMATION OR DENIAL THIS REPORT.

4. NEW TRIAL FOR CHICOMS EXPECTED TO BE HELD IN MAY OR JUNE.
GORDON
BT
CFN 3 IRC 4

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

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